

SEVERN RIVER COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2012 – 4:00 P.M.
Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, 4th Floor

	Attendance Record
Members Present:	
Lina Vlavianos, Chair	11/12
Tom Lindsay	3/4
Kurt Riegel (via conference call)	10/12
Joe Rubino	6/12
Jeff Schomig	9/12
Bob Whitcomb	10/12
 Guests and Staff:	
Kate Charbonneau, Critical Area Commission	
Margaret McHale, Critical Area Commission	
Bea Poulin, County Executive Office	
Brenda Reiber, County Executive Office	
Ren Serey, Critical Area Commission	
Brenda Weeks, AACo. DPW/WERS	
 Members Absent:	
Amy Clements	6/10
Sally Hornor, Vice Chair	11/12
Michael Robinson	10/12
Sheila Finlayson, City Council (Ex officio)	0/9
John Grasso, County Council (Ex officio)	3/12
Scott Hymes, MD DNR (Ex officio)	3/12

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vlavianos called the regular monthly meeting of the Severn River Commission (SRC) to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Severn Room, 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD. A quorum was declared present. Clements, Hornor, and Hymes were not in attendance because of other commitments. Robinson, Finlayson and Grasso were not present at the meeting.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ms. Margaret McHale, Ms. Kate Charbonneau, and Mr. Ren Serey from the State Critical Area Commission (CAC) were welcomed and introduced to Commission members. They were present to brief the SRC on County Council Bill 93-12 dealing with critical areas.

During the presentation the following issues were discussed and clarified: environmental standing requirements, granting of a variance in the instance of a violation, site planning alternatives, enforcement, fines for Critical Area (CA) violations, Buffer Management Plans, accommodations for persons with disabilities, coverage limitations in LDA and RCA, Buffer and Habitat Protection Areas, definition of Bulk Parcel, protection of 15% or greater slopes within the IDA, septic requirements, lot coverage, green technologies and imperviousness, pollutant reduction rule requirements, woodland provisions, mitigation requirements for variances, growth allocation, Bog regulations and variance pre-file meeting criteria.

The County Council's work session for Bill 93-12 is scheduled for December 11, 2012, with the public hearing on the bill to follow on January 7, 2013.

Commission members thanked CAC for their excellent presentation.

PUBLIC INPUT / AGENDA ITEMS – There was no public input.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the October 4, 2012, regular monthly meeting were presented for approval. On page 2, in the third sentence in paragraph two under Guest Speaker the words "aesthetics along the river" were removed and the sentence reworded to read "SRC expressed concerns about the permitting process, the amount of disturbance often allowed in the buffer, and"

There are no November meeting minutes since the meeting was canceled.

MOTION: A MOTION, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 4, 2012 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SRC AS REWORDED, WAS MADE BY WHITCOMB AND SECONDED BY SCHOMIG. THE MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS CORRECTED.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chair announced that three Commission members' terms will expire January 31, 2013--Riegel (City), Rubino and Vlavianos (County). Vlavianos will contact the County Executive's office to discuss appointments/reappointments.
2. Vlavianos announced that the Merbrand property on Jabez Branch was approved for a permanent forest conservation easement. State Highway Administration will notify SRC once the Forest Conservation Easement has been recorded.

3. A memo listing the 2013 Commission's meetings schedule was distributed to SRC members.

OLD BUSINESS

Stormwater Utility Bill – There was nothing new to report.

Jabez/SHA

Vlavianos reported that in mid November a representative from SHA, Ginger Ellis and Ron Bowen from Anne Arundel County, and Robinson and she from SRC walked a number of areas on the Jabez for possible cooperative effort for restoration. SHA and the County will discuss the possibilities at their regular meeting. Vlavianos will keep SRC updated.

Critical Area

Following the Critical Area Commission's presentation, SRC is encouraged by the proposed changes to the County Code in Bill 93-12. Vlavianos will attend the County Council's work session on the Bill. Schomig will draft a preliminary letter to the County Council based on what Vlavianos reports from the work session and the letter will be discussed at the January SRC meeting.

Annapolis – There was nothing new to report.

Oyster Restoration Activities

Whitcomb reported that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) planted a few thousand additional oyster spat under the Jonas Green Bridge fishing pier and 4,500 on the oyster reefs in Saltworks Creek.

Slag

Honor's update by email noted that slag has not been placed in Harris Creek on the Eastern Shore for restoration of oyster bars there.

Septics – There was nothing new to report.

Annapolis Marine Water Quality - There was nothing new to report.

Website – There was nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS - There was no new business.

PUBLIC INPUT/NEW ITEMS – There was no public input.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next SRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in the Severn Room (4th Floor), 2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Weeks
AACounty DPW, Bureau of Engineering
Watershed, Ecosystem & Restoration Services